

# Teaching – What works?

## *Educators say:*

Recognize the different learning styles -

- the visual learner - learns best when able to read and view; learns by watching videos/movies/role plays/demonstrations,
- the kinesthetic learner - learns best when able to move and do things with large muscles; learns through field trips, labs,
- the tactile learner - learns best when able to feel using small motor muscles and through personal relationships,
- the oral and auditory learner - learns best when able to hear, speak, discuss and think out loud; learns by traditional lectures.

*Try to include activities for all types of learning styles.*

Vary the format -

- deliver lectures as a way to transmit information and provide structure for the material,
- view videos/movies as a way to allow students to see a concept played out in a realistic setting,
- involve students in discussions to allow them to connect to the material and hear from each other,
- ask students to make presentations to practise their research, organization and speaking skills,
- allow students to create simulations/portray roles,
- use short in-class assignments to allow students to apply the learning immediately,
- encourage students to ask questions or make comments to relate concepts to their experiences.

*but know your comfort zone and what works for you.*

Make classes interactive -

- set up the classroom to promote communication,
- create safety in the classroom so that students feel comfortable to express themselves and speak out.

Use a variety of methods of evaluation *and*

- return graded work in a timely fashion since the sooner the feedback follows the work, the more effect it has on learning.
- consider allowing students to re-submit an assignment for grading, so they will pay attention to the comments,

Respect students' time -

- be prepared for each class.
- start and stop on time.
- keep instruction on topic *but be flexible enough to respond to students' needs.*

Reach out to students -

- inform students of all the resources available to them - your office hours, student services, tutors, for example,
- take time to learn students' names,
- take time to learn their interests and their learning styles, *but recognize that students become scholars when they take responsibility for their own learning..*

*Students say:*

Use a variety of evaluation techniques.

Have good time-management skills.

Relate teaching to life experiences.

Have good communication skills.

Be approachable.

Be organized.

Respect students.

*Produced by B.U.T.E.C. (727-9712)*

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